

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/534,818

Examiner

David D. Le

Applicant(s)

TATARA ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 15 October 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is the third Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/534,818, filed 13 May 2005. Claims 1-11 are pending.

### **Documents**

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
  - A copy of the Certified Copy of Foreign Priority Document, received on 05/13/05
  - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 05/13/05
  - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 07/13/05
  - English Translation of Foreign Priority Document, received on 10/15/07

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-11 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

#### **Claim 1:**

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a clutch control apparatus comprising a clutch device and a clutch control device, as recited in claim 1; specifically, wherein the clutch control device is adapted to execute a clutch relaxation control operation when the driving mode of the vehicle is switched between the engine cruise mode and the motor cruise mode, which includes an engagement decreasing control operation in which the engagement degree of the clutch device is decreased, and a

subsequent engagement recovery control operation in which the engagement degree of the clutch device is gradually increased and recovered, and is further adapted to execute an engagement increasing control operation in which the engagement degree of the clutch device is forced to increase when a revolution rate of the engine falls below a predetermined value.

Claim 7:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a clutch control apparatus comprising a clutch device and a clutch control device, as recited in claim 7; specifically, wherein the clutch control device executes a clutch relaxation control operation when the driving mode of the vehicle is switched from the engine cruise mode to the motor cruise mode and vice versa; the clutch relaxation control operation includes an engagement decreasing control operation in which the clutch control device decreases a clutch oil pressure coefficient of the clutch device, and a subsequent engagement recovery control operation in which the clutch control device gradually increases the clutch oil pressure coefficient of the clutch device; and the clutch control device controls the engagement degree of the clutch device depending on a revolution rate of the engine.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

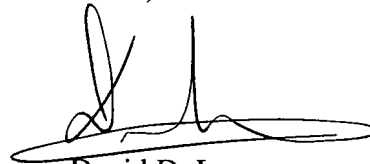
Art Unit: 3681

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7092. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0700-1530).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David D. Le', with a horizontal line underneath it.

David D. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3681  
10/29/2007

ddl